MPO Role in AHSC

1. Pre-Application: Technical Assistance

MPOs may conduct technical assistance workshop(s) concurrent with the release of the Notice of Funding Availability, which is expected to be released on October 2, 2017. These workshops can include:

- An overview of the application process, program guidelines and application requirements, partnership and project development, and other technical assistance,
- An overall presentation of the priority goals and programs/projects in the regions' respective adopted SCS' which relate to the AHSC Program requirements (MPO).

2. Application Review: SCS Consistency Threshold

MPOs have the option to review applications from within their region to determine if the proposed Project supports the implementation of the applicable SCS or other qualifying regional plan. As a threshold requirement, failure to meet this threshold would make the project ineligible. If there is concern regarding a project, MPOs would provide written comments explaining the issue.

3. Application Review: Prioritized List of Projects

To support implementation of an applicable SCS, MPOs will be encouraged to identify and recommend applications that have the highest regional priorities based on criteria established by the MPO. This process should include MPO Boards in the development of criteria and project prioritization. Potential considerations could include:

- How the project implements the RTP/SCS
- Alignment with identified transit priority areas or high priority development areas
- Incorporation of co-benefits or other key strategies and priorities in the RTP/SCS

This input would help to inform staff recommendations for awards. The AHSC award selection process entails each application receiving a quantified score based on a variety of measurable criteria described in the Program Guidelines. Applications with the highest scores are selected from each project area type until funding targets are met (35% TOD, 35% ICP, and 10% RIPA). The project area funding targets only add up to 80%, which allows SGC to use the remaining funds to emphasize program priorities that may be underrepresented in already selected projects and to meet statutory set-asides (50% Affordable Housing and 50% Disadvantaged Communities).

As stated in the AHSC Program Guidelines, the Council is committed to an equitable distribution of resources, and strives to fund a variety of projects in a manner that achieves regional equity. Accordingly, should there be additional funds after meeting both the project area type funding targets and the statutory set-asides described above, the prioritized list of projects received from MPOs will help to inform the remaining award selection process.

4. Post-Award: Guidelines and Application Development

Once awards are announced, SGC staff will consult directly with MPOs to outline how, from the perspective of MPOs, the program guidelines and application could be improved for future funding rounds. This feedback will inform potential changes to the program guidelines related to scoring and how MPOs are involved in the application.